

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 /047 W

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P 081440Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2571

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, AFSP, OAS, GJ

SUBJ: 1977 OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REF: A) HEAVNER - SIMMS 4/7 TELECON, B) PORTER - PIERCE

4/7 TELECON, C) 76 BRIDGETOWN 1316, D) BRIDGETOWN 159

1. AT TIME OF LAST EMBASSY OFFICER VISIT TO GRENADA (MARCH 29-31), PROLONGED WATER SHORTAGE HAD REACHED POINT REQUIRING LIMITING CONSUMPTION TO 4 HOURS DAILY IN GRAND ANSE SUBURB, PROPOSED SITE OF OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME RAINFALL APRIL 6, IT REPORTEDLY CONTRIBUTED ONLY SLIGHTLY TO RESTORING RESEVOIR LEVELS. (WE'RE INFORMED ISLAND'S RESERVOIRS HAD BEEN DRAINED FOR REPAIRS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO ONSET OF DROUGHT PERIOD.)

2. AT THIS POINT ITS OBVIOUSLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT IF DRY SPELL WILL CONTINUE LONG ENOUGH TO SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE HOLDING OF OASGA IN GRENADA. HOWEVER GIVEN FACT ISLAND'S ANNUAL RELATIVELY DRY PERIOD SOMETIMES EXTENDS INTO JUNE COUPLED WITH AREA WIDE TREND TOWARD LESS THAN HISTORICAL AVERAGE PRECIPITATION DURING LAST FEW YEARS, POSSIBILITY OF A SERIOUS PROBLEM CLEARLY EXISTS.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER WHO VISITED GRENADA A WEEK AGO REPORTS WIDESPREAD FEELING ON ISLAND THAT OAS MEETING COULD PROVE CONFIDENTIAL

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MONUMENTAL FIASCO. GRENADIANS NOTE PROBLEMS EMBASSY HAS PREVIOUSLY RAISED EMPHASIZING PARTICULARLY THE LIMITED HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AND APPARENTLY INADQUATE ADVANCE PLANNING TO ENSURE NECESSARY FOOD SUPPLY. (CURRENTLY ISLAND EXTREMELY SHORT ON ITEMS SUCH AS VEGATABLES AND EGGS.) WITH CRASH EFFORT ON PART GOG, HOTELIERS AND OAS STAFF, PROBLEM OF CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES (BUT NOT, OF COURSE, SHORTAGE OF

SUITABLE HOTEL ROOMS) COULD BE MET. HOWEVER TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, SUCH AN EFFORT HAS NOT YET MATERIALIZED. FURTHERMORE, GIVEN NATURE OF GOG, IT IS UNLIKELY TO EVER MATERIALIZE.

4. UPI STAFFER WHO RECENTLY VISITED GRENADA LATER TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER LACK OF PREPARATION "APPALLING" AND THAT CORRESPONDENTS COVERING MEETING CAN BE EXPECTED TO ZERO IN ON WHY DECISION TO USE GRENADA ALLOWED TO STAND IN FACE OF OBVIOUS INADEQUACY. SAME JOURNALIST ALSO PREDICTED KEEN PRESS INTEREST IN GRENADA SAFE HAVEN FOR MILLION DOLLAR FRAUD ARTIST EUGENE ZEEK AND OTHER ASSORTED STRANGE CHARACTERS INHABITING THE ISLAND.

5. ALSO RELEVANT IS PENDING LEGAL CHALLENGE TO P.M. GAIRY'S DECEMBER ELECTORAL VICTORY AND GOG'S LESS THAN STERLING RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS. REGARDING LEGAL CHALLENGE TO GAIRY'S RULE, IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE COURTS COULD RULE AGAINST HIM PRIOR TO - OR ABOUT TIME OF - OASGA OR THAT FACED WITH SUCH A PROSPECT, THE UNPREDICTABLE GAIRY MAY CALL A SNAP ELECTION, A POSSIBILITY THAT IS CURRENTLY WIDELY RUMORED. IN ANY CASE THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THE RADICAL MARXIST OPPOSITION WILL USE OAS GATHERING TO GAIN PUBLICITY FOR ITS CONTENTION GAIRY GOVT IS INSTRUMENT OF "US IMPERIALISM" AS WELL AS ALLIED WITH CHILEAN AND SOUTH KOREAN "FASCISM". WHILE SUCH CHARGES UNTRUE (FOR ALL HIS FAULTS, GAIRY CAN HARDLY BE ACCURATELY CHARACTERIZED AS ANYONE'S "TOOL"), THEY WILL APPEAR AT LEAST PLAUSIBLE TO MANY OUTSIDERS UNFAMILIAR WITH GRENADIAN SITUATION. HOWEVER TO EMBASSY GREATEST DANGER REMAINS THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBABILITY AN OASGA IN GRENADA WILL PROVE SIMPLY COLOSSAL ORGANIZATIONAL DISASTER, EXPOSING OAS AND ALL ASSOCIATED WITH IT TO FULSOME RIDICULE.  
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## Message Attributes

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